(b) whether the handloom sector is one of them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to boost the export and achieve the target fixed for the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b)The major sectors registering decline in the percentage share during the year 2001-2002 in comparison to the last three years are following:-

Sectors	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Apr-Sept. 2001-02
	Share	Percentage		
Agri and allied prod.	12.03	9.98	8.72	8.47
Marine Products	3.13	3.22	3.14	3.04
Ores & Mineral	2.69	2.50	2.61	2.57
Gems and Jewellery	17.85	20.43	16.67	15.99
Textiles incl. Handicrafts and Carpets	28.6	28.55	27.1	25.45

(c) The Synchronized global recession and the Sept. 11 event and its aftermath, has led to lower export growth worldwide. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crore or above for a period of one year, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports for a period of one year and upward revision of duty draw back rates on a number of product groups. All this and other factors have helped to arrest the declining trend in exports experienced during the early part of the current financial year. Further, taking Stock of the developments in the recent past and considering the current global economic environment, the Medium Term Export Strategy for the period 2002—2007 has been announced.

Bilateral trade negotiations with Bangladesh

512. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral trade negotiations with Bangladesh that have failed in the past to yield any agreement indicating specific concessions claimed

by either side, causes of failure in each dialogue and fresh initiative taken if any, to resolve those issues including transit of Indian goods through Bangladesh as well as twenty five duty free items deemed by Bangladesh;

(b) the specific issues found to be mutually beneficial but are yet to be resolved in promotion of border trade with Bangladesh in tourism, transport, agriculture and minerals;

(c) the list of joint venture projects; and

(d) the list of irritants, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The bilateral Trade Review Talks between India and Bangladesh take place under the ambit of the India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement. The Trade Review Talks are aimed at facilitating smooth flow of commercial exchanges and promoting bilateral economic and commercial linkages India has limited transit facility through Bangladesh under the provisions of the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade which has been in operation since 1972. India has made repeated proposals to Bangladesh for transit to the North-Eastem States by road and rail. Bangladesh has not agreed to these proposals. Request has been received from Bangladesh for grant of tariff concession on 25 product groups. India's views would be conveyed to Bangladesh during the next Trade Review Talks.

(b) to (d) The issue of promoting border trade, tourism transport, agriculture and mineral are being addressed during the Trade Review Talks. The Government have entered into an Agreement with Government of Bangladesh to start the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service. An agreement has also been signed to start bus service between Agartala and Dhaka. On the rail front, an agreement has been signed to start passenger train service between Sealdah and Jamuna Bridge (East). The Petrapole-Benapole rail link has been made operational for movement of goods trains.

Export of coal, rice, wheat and other cereals takes place regularly from India to Bangladesh.

Issues hindering free flow of bilateral trade such as inadequate infrastructural facilities at the border customs posts, improvement of banking facilities etc. are also being addressed during the Trade Review Talks.

List of Joint Ventures 100% foreign investment proposals from India in Bangladesh upto April 2000 is given below:-

Projects in production	12
Projects in operation	1
Projects implemented	9
Projects under implementation	6
Projects not yet implemented	53
Total	81
No. of Pharmaceutical projects	3
No. of textile and Jute projects	5
No. of Poultry and hatching projects	3
No. of Information and Technology projects	4
No. of Engineering projects	22
Other projects	44
Total No. of projects :	81

Revival of tea industry

513. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of tea has gone down as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken to save this industry; and

(d) whether Government propose to stop import of poor quality tea completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Ys, Sir. There has been a decline in export of tea in quantity and value terms during April-December 2001